

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01347 120840Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-13 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 EB-08 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /117 W
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P 120803Z MAY 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0697

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1347

FOR EA/PRC, SP NSC
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR PINT CH
SUBJ: DAILY SUMMARY FOR MAY 12
REF: STATE 108371

1. ON MAY 11 PRC VICE FOREIGN MINISTER YU CHAN -- CONCURRENTLY THE SENIOR CHINESE NEGOTIATOR IN THE SINO-SOVIET BORDER TALKS -- PRESENTED A "STRONG PROTEST" NOTE TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR TOLSTIKOV REGARDING A MAY 9 BORDER INCIDENT ALONG THE USSURI RIVER. THE CHINESE NOTE, TERMING THE SOVIET ACTION A "MILITARY PROVOCATION," INDICATES THAT THE SOVIETS DISPATCHED A HELICOPTER, 18 MILITARY BOATS, AND ABOUT 30 SOVIET TROOPS; CHASED AND TRIED TO ROUND UP CHINESE INHABITANTS, "SHOOTING CONTINUALLY AND WOUNDING A NUMBER OF THEM" AND SEIZING 14 CHINESE; AND PENETRATED 4 KILOMETERS IN CHINESE TERRITORY. NOTING THAT THE INCURSION OCCURRED WHEN THE SINO-SOVIET BORDER NEGOTIATIONS HAD JUST RESUMED, THE PROTEST DEMANDS AN APOLOGY, PUNISHMENT FOR THE CULPRITS AND GUARANTEES THAT NO INCIDENT WOULD OCCUR IN THE FUTURE. IN PEKING, CHINESE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS HAVE MAINTAINED SILENCE ON THE EPISODE. SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE INFORMALLY PASSED THE WORD THAT SOVIET "REGRET" CONCERNING THE INCIDENT WAS EXPRESSED -- INCLUDING "REGRET" THAT THE
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INCIDENT HAD BEEN "BLOWN UP" IN THE CHINESE PRESS (IT IS CARRIED ON PAGE ONE OF THE MAY 12 PEOPLE'S DAILY). AMBASSADOR TOLSTIKOV APPARENTLY ACCEPTED THE CHINESE PROTEST NOTE, HOWEVER.

2. THE MAY 12 PEOPLE'S DAILY PRINTS A MAY 10 NCNA REPORT ON OPPOSITION BY THE US SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE TO "UNILATERAL CONCESSIONS" TO MOSCOW. THE ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

THE COMMITTEE'S CONCERN THAT "THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION INCORRECTLY INTERPRETS THE INTENTIONS OF THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVE CONVENTIONAL MILITARY AND NUCLEAR SUPERIORITY..."

3. A MAY 12 PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL ON CHAIRMAN HUA'S TRIP TO THE DPRK TERMS IT A "NEW LANDMARK" IN BILATERAL RELATIONS AND "COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL."

4. CHINESE MEDIA PROMINENTLY FEATURE RECEPTION OF VICE PREMIER KU MU BY PRESIDENT VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING ON MAY 11; ANOTHER ARTICLE DATELINED PARIS REPORTS KU MU'S RETURN BANQUET FOR PRIME MINISTER BARRE ON MAY 10.

5. A NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY ON LEARNING FROM TACHING OPENED IN TIENTSIN ON MAY 10. DESCRIBED AS THE LARGEST CONFERENCE EVER HELD BY THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN CHINA, IT IS ATTENDED BY 1300 DELEGATES.
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